UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
LIMITED

DP/1991/WP.34
19 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-eighth session
DRAFTING GROUP
3-21 June 1991, New York
Agenda item 4 (c)

Draft decision presented by the United States of America

National execution

The Governing Council,

Recalling decision 90/21 of 22 June 1990 on national execution,

Also recalling decision 90/26 of 22 June 1990 on agency support costs,

Reaffirming the need to take specific decisions on measures designed to promote and maximize the utilization of national capacities through national execution, to ensure that programmes and projects are managed in an integrated manner, and to promote their long-term sustainability and wider impact on the development process,

Recognizing that national execution entails, inter alia, accountability to the Administrator for the effective use of United Nations Development Programme resources, as well as the responsibility for the management of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects,

Also recognizing the need for adequate technical support of nationally executed programmes and projects and, in particular, the responsibility of the Administrator to ensure the quality and appropriateness of the technical services financed by United Nations Development Programme assistance through, inter alia, technical appraisal, monitoring and evaluation functions normally performed by specialized agencies as the technical partners of the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1991/23) and of the proposals contained therein;

2. Agrees that the conceptual distinction between execution and implementation, already reflected in paragraph 2 of decision 90/21, not only makes possible but requires a broader framework for the development of national execution which, inter alia, would provide for:

(a) Broad support and assistance to Governments in the identification, creation and strengthening of sustainable national capacities for the management of development programmes and projects, including institutional capacities for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of progress in achieving programme and project objectives:

(b) Appropriate advice and assistance, as needed, to national and local government agencies, institutions and non-governmental organizations in the execution and implementation of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects;

(c) Mobilization, coordination and effective use of the analytical, technical and managerial capabilities of the United Nations system for the purposes outlined in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above;

(d) Exercise of choice of Governments with regard to implementation modalities under national execution;

(e) Development and adoption of United Nations Development Programme and government procedures and systems which enable the Administrator to discharge his accountability for programme quality, relevance and impact, as well as his responsibility for ensuring rigorous financial management and reporting;

3. Also agrees that a programme approach to national capacity-building assistance is necessary to ensure that programmes and projects are nationally managed in an integrated manner and, therefore, that the United Nations Development Programme, jointly with the relevant specialized agencies and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat should:

(a) Assist relevant national organizations in the assessment of managerial and technical capacities at the programme level and in the formulation of sectoral, cross-sectoral and subsectoral development programmes;

(b) Assist in the management of national programmes in a manner which contributes to the development of self-sustained institutions with a capacity to deal with multisectoral linkages;

4. Requests the Administrator to develop, in collaboration with agencies and recipient Governments, and submit to the Standing Committee for Programme Matters detailed guidelines for issuance to United Nations Development Programme field offices, covering:

(a) Assistance to Governments in the formulation and implementation of national capacity-building strategies, including specific measures to improve

national capacities for programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation, financial management, reporting and auditing, and programme and management audit;

(b) Formulation, appraisal, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of United Nations Development Programme-assisted, nationally executed programmes and projects, taking into account the need to spell out clearly:

(i) The respective roles of the United Nations Development Programme, specialized agencies and recipient Governments;

(ii) The purposes for which the United Nations Development Programme funds may be used;

(iii) The specific requirements to be included in project documents (e.g., those for tripartite reviews and evaluations);

(iv) Appropriate procedures to ensure the timely reporting and auditing of programme performance and expenditures.